3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

133 The extensive basin-shaped plains of eastern Albania—especially the plain of Metova in the upper region of the White Drin Valley, and the plains of Kosova and Tetova—are important to Albania. There are many lakes in these regions.

463 Agriculture and cattle raising are the principal occupations, with olives, the making of
241 olive oil, grains and tobacco being the prin-
135 cipal products of the country. But there is great mineral wealth (asphalt, arsenic, copper, iron, lead, lignite, naphtha, oil, and other mineral resources), which is largely yet undeveloped, and with time, possibly a very short time, through the development of the great abundance of these natural resources, including the fisheries, they will become the principal resources of the country.

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1

Minerals and Mining

316 MINING is rapidly becoming an important and profitable item in the economic life of Albania.

The soil of the country is extremely rich in ores of various kinds but unfortunately it has not been developed to the extent justified by the natural conditions and the riches of the sub-soil. Speaking generally, it has scarcely been developed beyond the phase of exploration and that of actual exploitation is just now actually beginning.

• 135 The Romans were aware of the deposits of asphalt near Valona, but in mediaeval times the continuous wars and later the Turkish domination did not favor the development of the mining industry.

Induced by the appalling scarcity of all raw materials during the world war and the numerous foreign occupations of Albania, a more intensive search for mineral products had been undertaken, and thus, the Italians found naphtha near Valona and lignite in the vicinity of Tepelene and elsewhere. The Aus-

MINERALS AND MINING

trians discovered lignite near Tirana and along the side road to Elbasan and also an abundance of copper near Pukë. The French unearthed lignite at Pogradec and copper in several places near Korça.

The Albanian Government, since 1925, has given greater and more systematic assistance to the mining industry and to the research and study of geological conditions and possibilities.

There were eighteen mining concessions granted between the years 1922 and 1928 and twenty-one more concessions given out in 1929, thus giving these industries a strong impetus.

There are numerous concessions for oil, copper, iron, lead, asbestos, talcum, plaster and marls of cement, lignite, asphalt, chrome, et cetera, still available to responsible companies and individuals.

Some of the large international mining enterprises have begun a continually increasing activity in Albania—the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Standard Oil Company, the Franco-Albanian Syndicate, Azienda Italiana Petroli Albania (AIPA), Societa Italiana Miniere di Selenizza, and others.

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG

316 A company has most successfully exploited the bitumen mines near Valona. The bitumen is found in solid form, both dull and shining, in liquid form and also as asphalt. The shining bitumen, called *romsi*, after the name of the village where it is principally found, is a remarkable product which does not exist in many countries. Albania exported in 1934 and 1935 bitumen in kilos 6,490,012 and 6,178,783 respectively.

135 Copper has been found near Pukë, Rehova, Kamenica and in the Mirdite district; iron in the Drin valley, near Kolonja, and in the Griba mountains; stratas of asbestos and talcum near Kruja, Deshnica, Voskopoja, Valona, Alessio and generally throughout the country; chrome near Pogradec; lead in the north; arsenic in several places; plaster and marls of cement appearing in large quantities near Valona, Alessio and many other places; lignite in numerous parts of Albania, especially in the vicinity of Tirana, Korça, etc. The asphalt and petroleum fields in some parts of Albania are the more advanced in development.

Few countries have a greater variety of mineral wealth, from precious metals down to

3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG I

lignite. The greater number of the deposits possess all the natural conditions for exploitation.

There are lignite, asbestos, talcum and asphalt fields throughout the entire country. The greater number of these seams have not yet been touched.

Were the chrome deposits fully exploited Albania would rank among the first in world production of this ore.

Gold, silver, antimony, cinnabar, chromium, coal and petroleum have been discovered by experts in several parts of Albania.

There are also ample indications in many parts of Albania of oil and natural gas, especially in the Viosa valley.

Some experts stated authoritatively that quicksilver has been discovered.

Salt in large quantities is obtained by evaporation, either from the seawater as at Durazzo, near Valona and at the mouth of the Semeni, or from the salt springs.

This great and varied mineral wealth suggests untold possibilities for the economic development and cultural progress of Albania.

A most profitable future is open to the

POSTSCRIPT

241 flourish. The southern plains, before the war,
439 exported fine horses in considerable numbers. Properly developed, Albania would be a rich agricultural country, even without the fertile valleys of Kossova and Epirus.

135 The mineral resources of Albania are unknown. During the Austrian occupation, a survey was made, looking toward the development of copper mines during the war; the results of the survey have vanished into the archives of the Austrian War Department. However, even the untrained eye perceives that there are copper and lead in the mountains. English mining engineers have told me that there are probably also silver and gold. I have seen veins of coal projecting on mountain sides; the mountaineers chip it off with hatchets or pry it loose with levers, and use it as fuel to a [137] small extent. There are millions of feet of pine, oak, birch, and beech timber; unlimited water [315] power. There are oil fields near Valona; producing oil wells were sunk, and later destroyed, by the Italians. Valona's military importance is not the only reason that Albanians are not left in peace.

175 There is also the political background. For twenty centuries the Albanians have been a beleaguered remnant of the first Aryan race in Europe. By character, temperament, and choice they belong with the peoples of the west, not with their Slav neighbors in the Balkans. But they have had no friends, either in west or east; their whole history has been a struggle for existence.

372 and steel or lighters. This left the mountaineers in an unenviable position—they could not afford matches nor legally start fires by other means. Outside the market towns, however, their illegal actions passed unnoticed.

342 Several authorities, particularly Nopcsa, have concerned themselves with north Albanian house types. These are usually divided, on the basis of ground plan, room arrangement, and architecture into a number of classes: simple one-roomed huts, usually employed in the summer only by shepherds on high mountain pastures; 2-roomed, one-storied houses, with one room for animals and the other for the family; the so-called veranda houses, with a wooden front porch and columns, reminiscent of the Homeric hall; and finally the *kulla* or defensible stronghold (fig. 8, *a*). 1

The 2-roomed house seems to be basic in the mountains, although historically the more complicated structures have made these edifices rare. The veranda house, although old in the Mediterranean, was apparently late to reach this refuge area, being spread with Islam. The *kulla*, or stronghold, is said to have come at the same time as the veranda house. Both reached Kastrati and Shala about 1850, being introduced by one man who had lived in Istanbul, Liho Çuni.

For building materials the Ghegs are strictly limited to local supplies, since transportation
● [135] is so difficult. In the region designated on figure 2 as "serpentine highland," 2 the stone is hard to cut, and unsuited for fine masonry except in the hands of experts. Furthermore, lime is found in few places only, and it is usually impossible to make mortar without many tedious trips with pack-horses or donkeys. In this region many of the houses are made of wood, with squared logs laid on each other and held in place by vertical or diagonal crosspieces. Others are made of wattle: vertical poles side by side, with flexible wands woven in and out between them. At times this wattling is bare, but usually it is covered with some sort of plaster or mud.

[353] Where there is plenty of suitable stone and lime, these materials are used. The simpler, poorer houses are of dry masonry, but the majority are built with mortar. Roofing material varies from thatch to shakes, slate, and tile. Years ago thatch was much more com-

-14a-

1 [see cat. 116, p. 108 -- Analyst]
2 [see cat. 116 p. 8a -- Analyst]

2:Edmonds T-3 (1926?) 1927 E13 Balkan Peoples
Albania EG1

CHAPTER IX

Coal at Koritza—An Economic Problem—A Night at the Metropole—The American School—I Go a-Missionising—In the Middle Ages—A Painful Incident—Converting the Imaum—The Dervish and Omar—"Blessed are the Weak-Minded!"—The Education Question—Women and the Moral Standard—Vengeance! A True Story—Silver and Gold—Italy Again—A Beautiful Lake—At Podgradetz—The Bull-Frogs.

DERVISH PRIEST

KORITZA is a town of some 20,000 inhabitants, with several fine new churches, an old Turkish mosque, and a prospect of electric light in the near future. It owes its importance to its situation in the centre of a large plain, one of the chief agricultural districts of Albania. The surrounding mountains contain coal, and during the French occupation coal was exported in considerable quantities to Salonika. Since the war, however, there has been only a little surface mining—just enough to supply the local demand—and though the presence of coal may ultimately make Koritza an industrial centre there are as yet no signs of any such development. Albania is, in fact, in much the same position as Montenegro in regard to mineral exploitation and mining. Not only